

"A PRIMER OF MEDICINE." By M. H. Pappworth, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 241. 32s. 6d.)
London: Butterworth, 1960.

Dr. Pappworth, who is known to generations of post-graduate students for his refreshing if unofficial membership course, has written this book primarily for undergraduates and medical students in their first clinical year.

The book consists of sections dealing with the clinical examination of the cardiovascular, respiratory, alimentary and nervous systems, with short chapters on history taking, swellings and the diagnosis of obscure pyrexia. There is an eight page introduction in which the author gives his views on medical education, and some of its faults, and throughout the book Dr. Pappworth's comments add piquancy and flavour to what is, of necessity, rather dull reading.

The chief merit of the book, which is not inconsiderable, is the efficient summary made of the essential facts of clinical medicine, and this will be of the greatest use to those preparing for a clinical examination. The work can hardly be recommended for a first year clinical student for whom there already exist a number of better texts in the same subject. However, for those taking their finals and for post-graduate students wishing to fill the vacuum between examination papers and clinicals, the book will be found helpful and even stimulating.

D. A. D. M.

OBSTETRICAL AND GYNÆCOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY FOR POST GRADUATE STUDENTS. By R. E. Rewell, M.D. (London), M.R.C.P. (Pp. xii + 435; figs. 150. 50s.)
Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960.

THIS book deals in some detail with gynæcological pathology on a regional anatomical basis, and devotes about 100 pages to obstetrical conditions and over 50 pages to a brief discussion of some conditions affecting the newborn infant.

The scope of the work is wider than the well established American textbooks which deal mainly with gynæcological pathology. The information is somewhat selected. It presents a fair and interesting account and is suitable for the obstetrician and gynæcologist reading for information. It is less concerned with details of less common conditions and the pathologist will not often turn to it for help, though there is a good and up-to-date bibliography. The illustrations, all in black and white, are numerous but sometimes disappointing, and it must be admitted that many photographs of histological detail are disappointing to the expert and of limited value to those who only wish to gain an understanding of a disease condition.

J. E. M.

"ILLUSTRATING MEDICINE AND SURGERY." By Margaret C. McClarty, D.A. (Edin.).
(Pp. viii + 159; figs. 178. 37s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960.

THE author, who is an eminent British medical artist of international repute, commences this well produced book with a brief history of the art of medical illustration and continues with an assessment of the artist's place in the modern medical school. Some of the problems which a medical artist is called upon to deal with are discussed.

The main portion of the book describes, for the benefit of authors and teachers, some of the methods and materials used in graphic art studies and much useful information is given although one statement—on page 132 to the effect that a certain transparent covering material will prevent pictures from fading—could be misleading as the permanence, or otherwise, of a picture in fact depends upon the chemical composition of the pigments used. Some of the illustrations showing pens, ink-bottles, lamps, and other standard articles might have been replaced to better purpose with further examples of the wide range of subject and style which the present day medical illustrator can handle.

A number of useful tables of weights and measures is included, but it is difficult to imagine for whom the glossary is intended. The general excellence of production is marred somewhat by inadequate proof-reading.

G. S.